Hampsterdance

"Band on the Run"

Script

Written by:
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FIRST DRAFT
9/21/01

FADE IN:

INT. BANFF HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

CU PAN SLOWLY ON LOOOOOOONG NAMEPLATE - which reads: *Brandon Banff, CEO, Marketing Manager, Advertising Director, Head of Everything Else, Hampsterdance Worldwide Enterprises, Ink.*

BRANDON (OS)
(in a deep, mature voice)
…Yes, uh, this is Brandon Banff, CEO and Marketing Manager and Advertising Director and, uh, Head of Everything Else at Hampsterdance Worldwide Ink…

SHOW MANAGER (VO)
Never heard of it.

ANGLE UP ON BRANDON BANFF - This 12 year-old is at his desk, wearing a "power tie" over his T-Shirt and talking into a SPEAKERPHONE. He's acting like an executive to the hilt, leaning back in his chair and propping his feet up on the desk.

BRANDON
(continues in a deep voice)
Uh, well, I represent a really zoomy singing group. They'd be perfect at your Montreal Mounties Maple Syrup Marathon.

From OS we hear:

BRENDA (OS)
Brandon, have you finished your homework?

BRANDON lurches forward and slaps his hand over the speakerphone.

BRANDON
(kid voice)
Yes, Mom!

Brandon takes his hand off the speakerphone and continues, pretending to shout at somebody in the next office.

BRANDON
(back to deep voice)
Er, just put that gold record over there with the others, Miss Jones!

SHOW MANAGER (VO)
Gold records? They're that big, huh?

BRANDON
Oh, yeah, very big! Really big! The biggest!

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT - SHORTLY THEREAFTER - DAY

CLOSE ON HAMPSTERS - Hampton, Hado, Fuzzy and Dixie are on STAGE performing a new song, *Everybody Knows That A Hampster Can't Sing*. Hado is playing her keyboard and Fuzzy the drums; Dixie and Hampton play their guitar and bass while doing some dance moves. From this angle, the hampsters look like they are human size and performing on a real stage.

HAMPSTERS
(singing)
Everybody knows that a hampster can't sing - Driving cross country trying to get a record deal - Down every major highway and every country road...

HAMPTON stops, having trouble figuring out the dance steps.

HAMPTON
Wait, Dixie, is it two kicks and a tail wiggle, or two wiggles and a kick?

PULL BACK to reveal the hampsters are performing on a miniature homemade stage in a basement, the stage fashioned out of a cardboard box and lit with a DESK LAMP. Brandon stands nearby watching the hampsters rehearse, but he's dropped the "power tie" and now looks more like a manager: dark glasses and a baseball cap, CLIPBOARD in hand.

DIXIE
No, Hampton darlin', it's a two step followed by a tush push.

Dixie demonstrates, doing a little two-step and then bumping her tush to one side.

DIXIE
See? Slick as grits on a greasy plate.

BRANDON
Okay, hampsters, let's take it from the top. The show's today and we gotta be ready. And one and two and...

Suddenly, from OS, AWFUL PIANO MUSIC is heard, playing a massacred version of *Oh Canada*, drowning out the REHEARSAL MUSIC. They all slap their hands over their ears.

DIXIE
Mercy! Sounds worse than cat caught in a corn picker!

FUZZY
Somebody tie that kangaroo down!

The OS PIANO MUSIC gets worse. Dixie pulls her hat down over her ears. Fuzzy grabs his CYMBALS and slaps them over his ears.

HAMPTON
What is that racket?

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. BANFF LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS - DAY

CLOSE ON BRANDEE as she pounds the keys of her BABY GRAND PIANO. She struggles to play while glancing up at the sheet music, which is scattered everywhere, some of it upside-down.

BRANDON stomps in, the hampsters scurrying up behind him, Dixie with her hands over her ears.

BRANDON
Brandee, do you have to play the piano now?

Brandee stops pounding the piano.

BRANDEE
I have to learn my song. I have a recital today.

BRANDON
A recital? Already?? You've only had two piano lessons.

BRANDEE
I don't have time for lessons - I wanna be a star RIGHT NOW!

BRANDON
Well, the hampsters have a show today, too, and they can't practice their new song with all your *noise*.

CLOSE ON HAMPSTERS - their heads turning back and forth as Brandee and Brandon argue.

BRANDEE
It's not noise!

BRANDON
Is, too!

BRANDEE
Is not!

BRANDON
Is too! And I'm telling Mom!

Brandon stomps out of the room.

ON HAMPTON as an idea hits him. His BOWTIE starts spinning in a circle and a LIGHTBULB appears over his head.

HAMPTON
Oh boy, idea alert! Idea alert!

He grabs the lightbulb and looks at the number on the top.

HAMPTON
And it's a hundred watter! Let's help Brandee…

Brandee leans down into frame and says to Hampton:

BRANDEE
That's "Bran-DEE."

HAMPTON
Let's help "Bran-DEE" learn her song so we can finish learning ours.

FUZZY
That's a rockin' idea. I'd say only forty watts worth, but, give it a go, Hado.

Fuzzy holds out his hands, his fingers laced together, and gives Hado a boost up onto the piano bench.

ON HADO as she leaps onto the piano bench then up onto the music stand, face-to-face with Brandee.

HADO
Just listen and follow along on the keys, BranDEE.

Hado, a whiz, quickly peruses the sheet music, memorizing it, then leaps down INTO the piano.

ANGLE INSIDE PIANO - Hado stands atop the piano hammers. She holds her hands together and pauses for a moment of Zen-like meditation. Then she leaps into action like a Crouching Tiger/Hidden Dragon, leaping, cart-wheeling and flying across the piano hammers, depressing them down onto the strings. <MUSIC: PERFECT RENDITION OF "OH CANADA">

ON BRANDEE - she looks down at the keys as they are depressed by Hado inside. Brandee puts her fingers to the keyboard and follows along - a big smile on her face.

HAMPTON gives a "thumbs up." Fuzzy and Dixie agree by doing a tush push.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - MEANWHILE

BOB BANFF shows his wife, BRENDA BANFF, his newest invention: a vacuum cleaner contraption with a stairmaster attached.

BOB
Here it is, Brenda, my latest energy saving appliance, The SuckerCycle.

Brenda climbs on pushes the steps up and down, the vacuum cleaner propels itself across the floor and sucks up the dirt. <WHOOSH, CHURN CHURN>

BRENDA
Oh, Bob, it's wonderful. Cleans the carpet and firms my thighs at the same time.

Brandon ENTERS, interrupting his mother's vacuuming.

BRANDON
Mom, tell Brandee to stop that awful racket. My hampsters have to rehearse.

BRENDA stops peddling long enough to listen. In the b.g. is <PIANO MUSIC> which is surprisingly good!

BRENDA
Sounds pretty good to me. Are we in a negative space today, Mr. Critic?

Brandon listens, too, a baffled look on his face. It is good! What gives?

BACK ON BRANDEE - She continues to follow along with her fingers, smiling happily as Hado does all the work.

BRANDEE
Oh, goodie, I can do it! I can do it!

HAMPSTER WHEEL WIPE TO:

INT. RECITAL HALL/BACKSTAGE - THAT AFTERNOON

CLOSE ON BRANDEE - Her confidence has crumbled. Tears stream down her cheeks.

BRANDEE
I can't do it! I can't do it! I'm not ready! (sobs)

PULL BACK to show the four hampsters are backstage with her, standing atop a wardrobe trunk. They look to Hampton - what now?

DIXIE
Got anymore of them hundred watt idears, Hampton?

HAMPTON
Looks like you'll have to lend her another hand, Hado.

HADO
But this is a recital. That would be dishonorable.

BRANDEE'S tears turn into a torrent. The hampsters leap out of the way to avoid the flood.

HAMPTON
Well, we got her into this…

The others glare at Hampton - *WE*??

HAMPTON
…Okay, I got her into this. But now we've gotta get her out.

FUZZY
I dunno. If she keeps cryin', I could get in some surfin'.

Fuzzy slips his swimming goggles over his eyes. Dixie wades through a puddle of tears in her cowgirl boots.

DIXIE
Well, somebody do somethin' - these boots weren't made for drownin'!

Hado looks reluctant, but relents, nodding her head.

HAMPSTER WHEEL WIPE TO:

INT. RECITAL HALL - ANGLE ON STAGE - MOMENTS LATER

CU/Brandee - she is all smiles as she plays a rousing rendition of "Oh Canada."

ANGLE INSIDE PIANO - Hado is doing backflips, flying leg kicks, cartwheels, karate chops and other incredible physical moves as she leaps all over the piano hammers.

HADO
<efforting!>

BACK ON BRANDEE - Making the most of this opportunity, the star-struck six-year-old kicks off her shoes and pretends to play the piano with her toes, flashing a big toothy smile at the audience. Then she leaps to her feet and turns around, pretending to play the piano with her rear end.

ON THE BANFFS - Brenda, Bob and Brandon are stunned by this performance.

ON PIANO TEACHER - She's standing in the wings, her mouth agape.

DIXIE AND HAMPTON are in the wings do a two-step and tush push to the national anthem.

DIXIE
I had no idea *Oh, Canada* was so danceable.

BACK ON BRANDEE - WIDE ANGLE - it's a big finale as she does a cartwheel, landing on the piano keys doing the splits! Her little toe reaches for that last, final high note! <DING!>

ON AUDIENCE - they leap to their feet and <APPLAUD>, shouting:

AUDIENCE
Brava! Brava!

BRANDEE - leaps off the piano bench and takes her bows.

HADO is so exhausted, she collapses onto the hammers, tries to catch her breath.

HADO
<panting>

BACK ON BRANDEE - as her PIANO TEACHER rushes out on stage. Brandee sees her coming and quickly, accidentally-on-purpose, closes the piano lid to hide her little helper inside. The piano teacher hands Brandee a small GOLD TROPHY shaped like a TREBLE CLEF.

PIANO TEACHER
That was mahvelous, Brandee!

BRANDEE
Bran-*DEE*!

PIANO TEACHER
You're a prodigy! The world must hear you! I'll arrange a concert tour!

Brandee's eyes go wide with excitement - she jumps for joy.

BRANDEE
Oh, goody goody goody! (then, seriously) But I'm gonna want a big allowance! And my very own Little Miss Star Trailer.

Brandee arrogantly walks off the stage, leaving the piano teacher with a startled look on her face.

HAMPSTER WHEEL WIPE TO:

INT. RECITAL HALL - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

The hall is now empty. Only the piano is onstage. PUSH IN on the piano as we hear the muffled sound of:

HADO (OS)
HELLO?? CAN ANYBODY HEAR ME??

HADO is alone and worried inside the piano. She's peering through a crack between the piano and the lid.

HADO
Oh, dear, I'm afraid Brandee has forgotten about me in here. I've got to let somebody know.

HADO'S POV - through the crack she sees the piano teacher backstage.

HADO (OS)
Somebody other than her. If she found out Brandee had help, she'd take her trophy away.

BACK ON HADO - She brightens with an idea:

HADO
Maybe if I send a signal, Brandon and the hampsters will recognize it!

Hado once again dances on the piano hammers, playing the tune to *Everybody Knows That A Hampster Can't Sing*.

BACKSTAGE the piano teacher is putting away sheet music when she hears the piano playing. A JANITOR is in the bg sweeping up.

PIANO TEACHER
Who is that playing the piano?

THE PIANO TEACHER steps out from the wings but stops, startled, when she sees the piano playing by itself.

PIANO TEACHER
(Gasp!)

THE JANITOR sweeps his way beside the teacher and sees the same thing.

JANITOR
(gasp!) I heard this place was haunted! It's… Whistler's Ghost!

He drops his broom and starts to run, but the teacher grabs his sleeve.

PIANO TEACHER
Don't be silly. It's not a ghost! There's no such thing. It's… a *magic* piano!

The janitor gives her a screwy look, then says sarcastically:

JANITOR
Oh, that makes sense.

INSIDE THE PIANO HADO continues to play the song - leaping and somersaulting over the piano hammers. <PIANO MUSIC> continues.

BACK ON THE PIANO TEACHER - as she listens, an idea occurs, a wild look in her eyes. She takes the janitor with her as she goes over to the piano.

PIANO TEACHER
Help me move it.

JANITOR
Where you takin' it?

The eccentric teacher hugs the piano like it was a lost loved one.

PIANO TEACHER
On the road to fame and fortune!

She and the janitor push the piano off stage.

JANITOR
(efforting)
But what about your students?

PIANO TEACHER
(efforting)
I've had enough of their sticky little fingers. I've found my prodigy!

BACKSTAGE the zealous teacher pushes the piano THROUGH a pair of double-doors. <CRASH!>

HAMPSTER WHEEL WIPE TO:

EXT. STREETS OF WHISTLER - DAY

As the Banff's ridiculous energy-saving, hampster-enhanced SUV, the HAMPSTERMOBILE (it has solar panels on the roof, and the front grill has been modified into a hampster face with ears) heads back home, we hear Brandee carrying on:

BRANDEE (VO)
I'm sooooo happy! I'm the first in my kindygarten class to…

INT. HAMPSTERMOBILE - CONTINUOUS

BRANDEE hugs her TROPHY like a star who's just won an Oscar.

BRANDEE
…be a star! And this is just the beginning!

HAMPTON standing on the seat, looks worried and is tugging on Brandee's sleeve, trying to get her attention.

HAMPTON
Uh, Brandee…

Brandee dismisses him.

BRANDEE
Later, Hampton, can't you see I'm having a "ME" moment.

She peels the GOLD FOIL back off the award, revealing a chocolate center. She bites into it.

BRANDEE
(chewing) Mommy, will my Oscar be filled with chocolate, too?

BRENDA looks back at Brandee from the front seat.

BRENDA
We're so proud of you, sweetheart. You're our baby grand.

HAMPTON pokes Brandee on the arm, still trying to get her attention.

HAMPTON
Brandee, it's urgent…

She brushes him aside, too wrapped up in her "ME" moment and finishing off her chocolate trophy.

BRANDEE
(chewing) Mommy, what should my first movie be called? And can I have a TV show, too? (swallow) Oh, and I need some milk.

HAMPTON gives up on trying to get Brandee's attention as she yammers on. He turns to Fuzzy and Dixie, whispers to them.

HAMPTON
(whispers)

They nod agreement to what he has said, then they all scurry toward the front of the car.

ANGLE ON DASHBOARD as Hampton, Dixie and Fuzzy scamper onto it. Hampton snaps his fingers three times to set the beat, then the threesome burst into song (to the tune, *Bill Bailey*):

DIXIE/FUZZY/HAMPTON
"Dum-dum-dum-dum - Hado is mis-sing! Hado is gone. We cry the whole night long!"

BRANDON reacts, looking around for Hado.

BRANDON
What!? Where is she?

The Hampsters all look to Brandee.

BRANDEE looks guilty as all eyes are on her. She swallows the last of her trophy.

BRANDEE
(gulp) Oooo, if I tell you you'll be mad at me and it's gonna ruin my "ME" moment.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. RECITAL HALL - A FEW MINUTES LATER

THE JANITOR is locking up the place when the Banff's HAMPSTERMOBILE <SCREECHES> to a halt. Brandon, Hampton, Fuzzy and Dixie leap out of the vehicle and confront the janitor.

BRANDON
Wait! We need to get to the piano. It's urgent!

The Janitor shrugs.

JANITOR
Sorry. The old eighty-eights are gone. Piano teacher took it. Helped her haul it out a few minutes ago.

Brandon, his parents, and the Hampsters react - oh no!

BRANDON
WHAT??? Where'd she take it?

JANITOR
Said something about makin' big money in the big city. I'm guessin' Chilliwack.

BRANDON and the hampsters leap back into the Hampstermobile.

BRANDON
Hurry, Dad!

BOB <REVS> the engine and hits the accelerator. The solar-powered electric engine <HUMS> a little louder and the SUV slowly gains momentum.

HAMPSTER WHEEL WIPE TO:

EXT. WHISTLER - DAY

PAN ON A LARGE VAN (with music NOTES along the side panel) as it heads towards the outskirts of town. CLOSER and we see that Brandee's piano teacher is behind the wheel.

THE BANFFS pull up behind the van, Bob <HONKING> his horn repeatedly to get the piano teacher's attention.

CLOSER ON PIANO TEACHER as Bob pulls into the passing lane and up alongside her. Brandon shouts out the back window at her.

BRANDON
STOP! WE NEED THAT PIANO!

THE PIANO TEACHER recognizes Brandee, who is waving her arms to get her attention.

PIANO TEACHER
You're not getting *my* magic piano!

She punches the accelerator pedal and speeds ahead of the Banffs, her tires <SQUEALING>.

BRANDON
She's getting away!

BOB BANFF
Don't worry. I'll show her the power behind solar power! Hold on, everybody!

BOB BANFF firms his jaw and grips the steering wheel firmly.

CU ON ACCELERATOR PEDAL as Bob punches it to the floor.

THE HAMPSTERMOBILE makes no noticeable gain in speed, other cars passing it easily.

BRANDON slaps a hand to his forehead - this is hopeless.

BRANDON
(sarcastically)
Oh, the G-forces.

WIPE TO:

EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF WHISTLER - CONTINUOUS

The piano teacher steers her van onto a FREEWAY RAMP. A sign on the ramp points to *Vancouver*. A beat later, the Banffs Hampstermobile follows. <NOTE: The following is a slapstick chase scene, and should be animated in fast motion to increase the sense of comedy and sillyness.>

EXT. BC FREEWAY - DAY

THE PIANO TEACHER'S VAN speeds along, passing other vehicles.

THE HAMPSTERMOBILE is gaining speed, too, until…

ANGLE ON SKY - a dark CLOUD passes over the sun, blocking it.

BACK ON HAMPSTERMOBILE as it's cast in the shadow of the cloud and loses speed. It's passed by almost every vehicle on the freeway, including a bicycle-type ICE CREAM VENDOR.

INSIDE THE HAMPSTERMOBILE Bob pumps the accelerator pedal.

BOB BANFF
Uh oh. Sun block shutdown.

BRANDON
We'll never catch her! Why can't we have a normal car??

BRENDA
Now, Brandon, this is no time for dark thoughts… even if we are under a cloud.

BOB starts cranking a HANDLE on the dashboard.

BOB BANFF
Not to worry. This is a flexible fuel vehicle.

ON HAMPSTERMOBILE as a WINDMILL rises from out of the roof.

BOB BANFF
We'll overtake her with wind power!

A BIG BUS speeds past the Hampstermobile, creating a gust of wind that spins the windmill blades. The SUV speeds forward.

BANFFS/DIXIE/FUZZY/HAMPTON

YEA!

HAMPSTER WHEEL WIPE TO:

EXT. STREETS OF VANCOUVER - CONTINUOUS

During the following scenes, the Hampsterdance song, *Everybody Knows That A Hampster Can't Sing,* plays over the action.

HAMPSTER LYRICS (VO)

Everybody knows that a hampster can't sing
driving cross country trying to get a record deal
down every major highway and every country road
we went looking for a place where we could unload…

THE TEACHER'S VAN speeds into the city, the Banff's windmill-powered, hampster-enhanced SUV close on its tail.

ON HAMPSTERMOBILE as Bob pulls alongside the van.

HAMPTON AND FUZZY are perched on the headrest of the backseat, looking out the window, where Hampton sees...

POV - the locked LATCH on the back doors of the moving truck.

HAMPTON brightens with another idea, his bowtie spinning and another LIGHTBULB appearing over his head. He whispers to Fuzzy and points out the window, then tips the lightbulb down to show it's a 150 watter! Fuzzy likes the idea, zips OS and zips back with his SURFBOARD under one arm and a BALL OF YARN in the other, which he hands to Brandon, who holds on tight. Fuzzy slips his goggles over his eyes, grabs the end of the ball of yarn then leaps onto his surfboard and out the window!

FOLLOW FUZZY as he wind surfs across the gap between the two vehicles, like a water skier being pulled by a speed boat.

HAMPSTER LYRICS (VO)(CONT'D)

…But everywhere we went we heard the same old thing
everybody knows that a hampster can't sing
Now they wouldn't even listen they just went and laughed
making up stories about some dancing giraffes…

BRANDON lets out more yarn as...

FUZZY surfs over to the back doors of the van. He reaches the LATCH holding the doors shut and leaps onto it. Fuzzy uses his surfboard as a lever to pry the latch loose. The doors fly open, Fuzzy clinging to the latch with one hand and his precious surfboard with the other.

FUZZY
WHOA!

WIDER ON VAN as it makes a sharp turn and the baby grand piano rolls out of the back and onto the street! <SFX: PIANO STRINGS BANGING>

ANGLE INSIDE PIANO - Hado is in the lotus position, mediating, but she gets bounced around the piano strings pretty hard. She rubs her sore behind.

EXT. STREETS OF VANCOUVER - CONTINUOUS

The runaway piano rolls down a street and under a low bridge. The teacher is right behind in her van. The Banffs aren't so lucky, though, and sever the blades of their windmill as they pass under the bridge.

THE HAMPSTERMOBILE once again loses speed.

HAMPSTER LYRICS (VO)(CONT'D)
...But we didn't get discouraged, no we didn't go and quit
we just kept on moving hoping someday we'd hit...

INSIDE THE HAMPSTERMOBILE all eyes go to Bob - what next? Bob pushes a button on the dashboard.

FROM THE FLOOR OF THE VEHICLE rise bicycle-like pedals, one for each passenger. Bob, Brenda, Brandon and Brandee put their feet on the pedals and start pedaling.

HAMPTON AND DIXIE even get to contribute when two hampster-sized pedals emerge from the middle CONSOLE for them to ride. They leap on and start pedaling, too.

THE HAMPSTERMOBILE lurches forward to resume the chase <SFX: PEDALS SQUEAKING>.

WIPE TO:

EXT. VANCOUVER RAILROAD YARD - CONTINUOUS

THE PIANO speeds into the railroad yard and onto some train tracks!

THE PIANO TEACHER follows, turning her van onto the tracks!

BOB BANFF steers the Hampstermobile onto another set of tracks.

HAMPSTER LYRICS (VO)(CONT'D)

...But everywhere we went we heard the same old thing
everybody knows that a hampster can't sing
What everybody knows don't mean a thing
Life's about changing, all the hampsters sing
open up your mind and let the sunshine through
put us on the stage and we'll sing for you
yeah it's true
yeah we do
Let the hampsters sing for you...

THE PIANO speeds down some tracks, up over a BRIDGE, and sails into the air, coming down onto an empty FLATBED CAR on a moving train.

PAN ON SPEEDING TRAIN as it races out of Vancouver and into the countryside. The van and Hampstermobile chase the train down the tracks!

ON MAP OF CANADA - three lines on the map, representing the train, van, and Hampstermobile, criss-cross the country, from BC all the way to Quebec, making loops, jagged turns, and even a few backups.

EXT. QUEBEC CITY - DAY

THE TRAIN makes a sharp turn into the city and the piano flies off the flatbed railcar. The piano teacher's van and the Banff's Hampstermobile are right behind it.

HAMPSTER LYRICS (VO)(CONT'D)

...We came across a junction on a country road
Where Franklin the turtle said our future would be told
so we set up our equipment and we began to play
and suddenly everyone would stop and say...

QUICK CUTS as the piano/van/Hampstermobile...

...speed through the narrow streets.

...THROUGH the Hotel Frontenac's huge lobby and out the other side!

...and onto the frozen St. Lawrence River, where all three slide out of control, the VAN and HAMPSTERMOBILE spinning in circles.

FUZZY loses his grip on the backdoor latch of the van and is tossed OS.

DIXIE AND HAMPTON lose their grips and are tossed out the window!

DIXIE, HAMPTON AND FUZZY all land on the keyboard of the piano <SFX: KEYBOARD TWANG!>.

HAMPSTER LYRICS (VO)(CONT'D)
...I dig this Hampsterdancin' and your songs really swing
I never even knew that a hampster could sing
What everybody knows don't mean a thing...

PAN ON PIANO as it slides down the frozen river, the Hampstermobile and the van trying to follow it! The piano slides up an embankment, back on land, and into Mont-Saint Bruno Provincial Park.

ON BRANDON as he CELLPHONE <RINGS> and he answers it.

WIPE TO:

EXT. MONT-SAINT BRUNO PROVINCIAL PARK/MONTREAL - DAY
The park is filled with CANADIAN MOUNTIES in their red coats, lots of park visitors, giant inflated BOTTLES OF MAPLE SYRUP, and an outdoor stage where an audience is seated.

A SHOW MANAGER is pacing, glancing at his wristwatch, and talking on a CELLPHONE behind the stage.

SHOW MANAGER
Where are those singing hampsters?? They're supposed to be onstage right now!

THE SHOW MANAGER is stunned as the piano speeds past him towards the stage.

HAMPSTER LYRICS (VO)(CONT'D)
...Life's about changing, all the hampsters sing
open up your mind and let the sunshine through...

ANGLE ON STAGE as the piano BURSTS through the backdrop, shattering into pieces! All four hampsters fly to the front of the stage where they land on their feet and finish the song.

HAMPSTERS (CONT'D)
…Put us on the stage and we'll sing for you
yeah it's true
yeah we do
let the hampsters sing for you
let the hampsters sing for you!

The audience goes WILD, clapping and cheering.

AUDIENCE
<big cheers>

BACKSTAGE the piano teacher and Bob Banff SKID to a stop in their respective vehicles. The teacher and the Banffs leap out and run onstage.

THE PIANO TEACHER sees the remains of her piano.

PIANO TEACHER
My magic piano! It's ruined!!

BRANDEE, ashamed, steps over to her teacher and confesses.

BRANDEE
It wasn't magic. It was Hado.
She helped me… just a little.

Brandee hands her teacher the GOLD FOIL that was her trophy.

THE SHOW MANAGER pats Brandon the shoulder.

SHOW MANAGER
You're right, they are good. And what an entrance!

Brandon smiles as he watches the Hampsters being cheered and taking their fourth or fifth bows.

FADE OUT

END OF SHOW

HAMPSTERDANCE
"Band on the Run"
Beat Outline
September 12, 2001

1) We open on a close shot of a nameplate on an executive desk that reads: *Brandon Banff, CEO, Marketing Manager, Advertising Director, Head of Everything Else, Hampsterdance Worldwide Enterprises* (it's a loooong nameplate). We hear Brandon's voice (which he's lowered to sound more adult,) as he juggles several phone calls telling various theater owners that he represents a BIG new act. The BIGGEST! The BIGGEST there ever was!! We pull back to reveal Brandon is just a kid, at an old desk in the basement. He beams happily as he hangs up the phone and says, "I DID IT!" SMASH CUT TO:

2) The BIG act: four small hampsters rehearsing a new song atop a small rehearsal stage on top of a table in the same basement. We're seeing Hampton, Dixie, Hado and Fuzzy try a new dance step as Brandon watches. Brandon and the hampsters are so excited because tomorrow they're going to be performing at (a venue in Canada somewhere). The hampsters rehearsal is interrupted by horrible piano playing. Dixie slaps her hands over her ears and complains, "Mah ears can't take much more!" Fuzzy wishes a piano could be unplugged!

3) Upstairs, Blondee is practicing the piano for a recital that night. Brandon tells his little sister to stop, the hampsters can't concentrate. Blondee says she has to learn this song. Hampton gets an idea: The hampsters will help Blondee learn it and all four jump onto the piano keyboard to play the song (Dixie dancing across the keys in a two-step with Hampton, Hado doing her tai chi moves, and Fuzzy surfing across the keys). Blondee says that's great, but *she* needs to know which keys to play, so the hampsters climb inside the piano and dance across the hammers and strings - as Blondee follows along on the keyboard with her fingers. "That's it! Yes, I think I can do it!" Blondee squeals. SMASH CUT TO:

4) CU on Blondee at the recital hall as she cries, "I can't do it! Help me!" Blondee is afraid to go onstage because she doesn't know her song, tears streaming down her face. Hampton says they have to help her again, they can't let her go onstage and fail. Dixie agrees. Hado has reservations: it would be dishonorable to help her at a recital. But as Blondee's tears turn into a flood, Hado caves in and the hampsters agree to help Blondee play the song. SMASH CUT TO:

5) Blondee, all smiles, in the middle of playing some incredible Mozart or Bach or Beethoven piece. Her parents, Brandon, her piano teacher, and the entire audience are stunned by her talent! Inside the piano, the hampsters are working their tails off (if they had tails) playing the piano. When the song is over, shouts of "brava" are heard - Blondee is a hit, and as her music teacher comes onstage to hug and congratulate her, Blondee accidentally-on-purpose closes the piano lid to hide her little helpers inside. The music teacher tells Blondee she is a *wunderkin* and wants to take her on a concert tour. Blondee's head swells and she says she'll have to talk to her agent and field other offers. Blondee exits the stage, the star she's always wanted to be. SMASH CUT TO:

6) The recital hall, later. Only the music teacher and a janitor remain. The hampsters are still trapped in the piano. Dixie says they should call out for help, but Hado says if they do that Blondee's music teacher might find out that the hampsters helped Blondee and get her in trouble. Hampton says that they should send a secret signal – one that only Brandon would know, and will hopefully hear if he's nearby. The hampsters start playing the new song they were rehearsing at the top of the show. The music teacher sees the piano playing by itself and is amazed. She looks for an electrical plug or other device to make sure it isn't a "player piano." It isn't, and the music teacher thinks she's found a new prodigy: a magic piano! Forget teaching kids, she's taking this instrument on the road to make a fortune!

7) The Banff House. Brandon can't find the hampsters anywhere, and they need to get packing for their show. He asks Blondee if she's seen them. She confesses, "Oops." Brandon presses and Blondee admits she forgot they were in the piano at the recital hall. SMASH CUT TO:

8) Brandon, Blondee, Bob and Brenda arrive to find the piano gone. Only the janitor is there, and he says the music teacher left with some piano movers. They said something about going to (Canadian theater) to debut the magic piano! The Banffs head off in their ridiculous hampstermobile minivan to rescue the hampsters.

9) An over-the-top chase scene of the Banff's chasing the piano movers. Over the action we hear one of the hampster's songs, a "Band on the Run" kind of number. In Vancouver, the piano rolls out of the back of the movers' truck and through the hilly city - in and around the totem poles of Stanley Park - the piano teacher and the Banffs chasing after it. The piano speeds out of control to the railroad station, where it rolls up onto a flatbed railcar and is whisked away by a fast-moving train. The Canadian countryside whizzes by (the Banff's minivan and piano movers' truck following alongside the train), but a sharp turn in the tracks sends the unsecured piano off the train and through the narrow streets of Quebec City, through the Hotel Frontenac, and toward the St. Lawrence River, where it floats across on a big sheet of ice! The piano rolls to the airport and up a ramp into the back of a cargo plane, which immediately takes flight! (Inside, the hampsters are in for a wild ride!)

10) The silly chase ends in (city where Brandon booked concert), where the manager of the (concert venue) is pacing and checking his watch, wondering where those singing hampsters are! They're supposed to be on stage right now! Just then, the piano rolls into the theater, past the manager, and onto the stage, where the lid pops open and the hampsters fly out, making an entrance that brings the audience to their feet! The hampsters finish the song that played over the chase scene and are a big hit, as always.